

Amendments to the Claims and Listing of Claims:

Please add new claims 20-24, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A valve engageable with an instrument, said valve comprising: a valve body; a deformable stem located in said valve body and shiftable therein, said stem having an aperture configured such that when the instrument is engaged with said aperture in said stem, said stem shifts within said valve body and said aperture deforms to allow liquid to flow therethrough to or from the instrument; a plug member in said stem, said plug member shiftable to a position of generally sealed engagement with said stem while the instrument is still engaged with said aperture in said stem.
2. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein said plug member seals off a relatively high pressure area and provides a low pressure area adjacent said aperture thereby reducing a likelihood that fluid will squirt out said stem through said aperture when the instrument is disengaged from said aperture.
3. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, said stem and said valve body configured such that when the instrument is not engaged with said stem, said valve body engages said stem thereby urging said aperture closed.

4. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, wherein a portion of said stem is generally conical and facilitates the closing of said aperture in said stem when said valve body engages said stem when the instrument is not engaged with said stem.

5. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, said stem including a head portion, said head portion contacting said valve body when the instrument is not engaged in said aperture in said stem, said contact between said head portion and said valve body urging said aperture in said stem closed.

6. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, said stem including a throat portion which contacts said valve body and provides generally axial compressive resistance when the instrument is engaged with said aperture in said stem.

7. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 5, said stem including a throat portion which contacts said valve body and provides generally axial compressive resistance when the instrument is engaged with said aperture in said stem.

8. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 6, said throat portion including an end portion which sealably contacts said valve body.

9. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 7, said throat portion including an end portion which sealably contacts said valve body.

10. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, said valve body having stem-engaging structure on an internal surface thereof for engaging said stem when the instrument is not engaged with said aperture in said stem, said stem having valve-body engaging structure for engaging said stem-engaging structure on said valve body.

11. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 10, said stem-engaging structure on said valve body comprising a taper, said valve-body engaging structure on said stem comprising at least one contact point which engages said taper when the instrument is not engaged with said aperture in said stem.

12. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 1, said stem having an end which has said aperture formed therein, said stem configured such that said end of said stem protrudes past an end of said valve body, thereby exposing said end of said stem when the instrument is not engaged with said aperture in said stem.

13. (Original) A valve engageable with an instrument having a tip portion, said valve comprising: a valve body; a deformable stem located in said valve body in a compressed condition and shiftable from a first position, said stem having an aperture configured such that when the instrument tip is engaged with said aperture in said stem, said stem is urged from the first position and said aperture deforms to allow liquid to flow therethrough to or from the instrument; a plug member disposed with a

bore in the stem which generally seals with at least a portion of said stem when the valve is pressurized, but is capable of being displaced by said tip to unseat and permit fluid flow, yet will reseal as the instrument tip is being disengaged from said aperture in said stem.

14. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 13, wherein a portion of said stem is generally conical and facilitates the closing of said aperture in said stem when said stem is urged into said first position.

15. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 13, said stem including a head portion, said head portion contacting said valve body when said stem is urged into said first position, said contact between said head portion and said valve body urging said aperture in said stem closed.

16. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 15, said stem including a throat portion which contacts said valve body and provides generally axial compressive resistance when the instrument is engaged with said aperture in said stem and said stem is urged from said first position.

17. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 16, said throat portion including an end portion which sealably contacts said valve body.

18. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 13, wherein said plug member seals off a relatively high pressure area from said aperture in said stem and provides a low pressure area adjacent said aperture thereby reducing a likelihood that fluid will squirt out said stem through said aperture when the instrument is disengaged from said aperture in said stem.

19. (Original) A valve as recited in claim 13, said stem having an end which has said aperture formed therein, said stem configured such that said end of said stem protrudes past an end of said valve body, thereby exposing said end of said stem when said stem is in said first position.

20. (New) A valve engageable with an instrument, said valve comprising:

a valve body;

a flexible, resilient member located in said valve body and shiftable therein, said flexible, resilient member having an aperture configured such that when the instrument is engaged with said aperture in said flexible, resilient member, said flexible, resilient member shifts within said valve body and said aperture deforms to allow liquid to flow therethrough to or from the instrument; and

a rigid member in said flexible, resilient member, said rigid member shiftable to a position of generally sealed engagement with said flexible, resilient member while the instrument is still engaged with said aperture in said flexible, resilient member.

21. (New) A valve as recited in claim 20, wherein said rigid member includes a cannula.

22. (New) A valve as recited in claim 21, wherein said rigid member includes an outlet end shaped so as to provide a seal against the flexible, resilient member.

23. (New) A valve as recited in claim 20, wherein said rigid member is a plug member

24. (New) A valve as recited in claim 20, wherein said flexible, resilient member is a deformable stem.